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ABSTRACT

This book presents a diverse set of unusual and significant departures from customary educational policies and practices. These "radical" ideas range from calling for national standards, to enacting statewide legislative initiatives, to implementing decentralized local initiatives such as charter schools, local school councils, and privatization. The chapters focus on seven major forms of radicalism: (1) a fundamental shift in basic beliefs, values, and ways of thinking about education; (2) the transfer of political power; (3) a change in the ownership of education; (4) a complete overhaul of goals, standards, and norms by which education systems operate; (5) major changes in the technology employed by educational enterprises; (6) the abandonment of old institutions in order to start anew, as in schools that "break the mold"; and (7) a restatement of the scope, mission, or mandate of the enterprise itself. Section 1 contains four chapters that focus on national and state strategies: (1) "National Standards" (Albert Shanker); (2) "The New American Schools Development Corporation" (Saul Cooperman); (3) "What I Saw at the California Education Revolution" (Francie Alexander); and (4) "Wild Card Educational Reform in Kentucky" (Betty E. Steffy and Fenwick W. English). Section 2 is comprised of three chapters that examine change at the district level: (5) "Raising Standards in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools" (John A. Murphy); (6) "Radical School Reform in Chicago: How Is It Working?" (Edgar G. Epps); and (7) "Comprehensive School Services in San Diego" (Thomas W. Payzant). The third section includes five chapters that present generic approaches to change: (8) "Charter Schools in Minnesota" (John A. Cairns); (9) "Free Market Choice: Can Education Be Privatized?" (Joseph L. Bast and Herbert J. Walberg); (10) "New School Choice Plans" (Michael Heise); (11) "Technology in School Improvement" (Dustin H. Heuston); and (12) "Technology in the Edison Schools" (Nancy Hechinger). Seven figures and two tables are included. References accompany each chapter. (LMI)